

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 CCO-00 ACDA-10 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 /073 W

----- 015084

O 141559Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 4198

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 8774

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH. US.

SUBJECT: KHUKRIT ON THE U.S. USE OF THAI TENANTED BASES FOR
MILITARY ACTIONS IN CAMBODIA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: BANGKOK 8772

1. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOTE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 14.
FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS
ON THE U.S. MILITARY USE OF THAI-TENANTED BASES FOR ACTIONS IN
CAMBODIA.

BEGIN TEXT.

KHUKRIT: I WISH TO MAKE A STATMENT, INFORMING MASS MEDIA THAT
AFTER IT WAS REPORTED THAT CAMBODIA HAD SHOT AT AND SEIZED AN
AMERICAN MERCHANT SHIP, A FOREIGN NEWS REPORT STATED THAT THE
UNITED STATES HAD SHOWN A STRONG REACTION OVER THIS ACTION ON THE

PART OF CAMBODA. REPORTS

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YESTERDAY SAID THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO CARRY ON DIPLOMATIC MOVES, BUT SHOULD NO SUCCESS BE OBTAINED FROM DIPLOMACY, DRASTIC RETALIATION ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN LATER.

I SENT FOR THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRS, AND HE CAME HERE TO MY OFFICE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE: I THEN ASKED HIM FOR DETAILS IN REGARD TO THIS MATTER, AND HE CONFIRMED THE FOREIGN NEWS REPORTS. I INFORMED THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES THAT SHOULD THE UNITED STATES RESORT TO MILITARY RETALIATION IN REGARD TO THIS MATTER, FOR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT WANTS IT TO BE A MATTER BETWEEN AMERICA AND CAMBODIA ONLY. THE THAI GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN IT IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER, AND IT DOES NOT WANT AND WILL NOT GIVEN PERMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES TO USE ANY BASE IN THAILAND, WHICH IT IS USING UNDER AGREEMENT WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT, IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER IN REGARD TO ANY MILITARY RETALIATION THAT MIGHT BE RESORTED TO IN THIS MATTER.

THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRS PROMISED AND HE ASSERTED THAT VARIOUS BASES IN THAILAND, UNDER AGREEMENT WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY THE BASE IN U TAPAO, WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY ACTION SHOULD MILITARY RETALIATION BE RESORTED TO.

BUT TODAY. THIS MORNING, I RECEIVED A REPORT STATING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD SENT AND LANDED ABOUT 1,100 MARINES AT U TAPAO. I THEREFORE SENT FOR THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRS TO COME AND MEET ME HERE AT 3/45. P.M. TODAY. AND I QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE TRUTH OF THIS REPORT. WHICH HE ADMITTED IS TRUE. SINCE THIS IS THE SITUATION, I HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PRESENT A PROTEST TO THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, IN ORDER FOR HIM TO SEND THAT PROTEST TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

COPIES OF THE PROTEST AND THE AIDE MEMORE OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESENTED IN THIS MATTER WILL BE READY AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL MASS MEDIA SOON. THUS NOT MAKING IT NECESSARY FOR ME TO INFORM YOU OF DETAILS.

REPORTER: IN ADDITION TO MAKING THIS PROTEST, WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN. BECAUSE MARINE HAVE COME HERE ALREADY TO TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION. THOUGH WE HAVE FORBIDDEN THEM TO COME HERE?

KHUKRIT: I HAVE RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL REPORT STATING THAT WHEN THE UNITED STATES WAS INFORMED OF OUR WISH. THAT IT WILL WITHDRAW THE MARINES BROUGHT HERE AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE.

REPORTER: HAS IT INFORMED US?

KHUKRIT: I HAVE HEARD UNOFFICIALLY... I CANNOT CONFIRM IT AT ALL YET... IT IS A REPORT RECEIVED THAT IS NOT DEFINITE YET, THEREFORE WAIT AND SEE TOMMORROW FIRST.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU CHECKED UP WITH THE MILITARY WHETHER THE SUPREME COMMAND (FORWARD) KNEW OF THE COMING HERE OF THE MARINES BEFOREHAND?

KHUKRIT: I ASKED THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HE SAID HE APPROVES OF EVERY ACTION I HAVE TAKEN.

REPORTER: WHAT DID HE SAY?

KHUKRIT: HE APPROVES OF EVERY ACTION I HAVE TAKEN.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE MILITARY KNEW OF THE MATTER BEFOREHAND:

KHUKRIT I DON'T KNOW. I TALKED WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

ABC: MR. PRIME MINISTER, CAN YOU TELL ME WHY THE UNITED STATES SENT 1,000 MARINES TO U TAPAO BASE...

KHUKRIT: WHY. I DON'T KNOW. WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR?

ABC: WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND?

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KHUKRIT: WE HAVE MADE A PROTEST TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE DEMAND THAT THE TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY. AND IF THAT'S NOT DONE, IF OUR REQUEST IS NOT COMPLIED WITH. THE RESULT WILL BE A... ER... A DETE-RIORATION IN THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THIS COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES.
WHITEHOUSE

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ABC: DO YOU MEAN THAT THAILAND IS GOING TO BREAK
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES?

KHUKRIT: WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE THE RESULTS.

REPORTER: TOMORROW, THAILAND HAS NOT RECEIVED
A SATISFACTORY REPLY IN REGARD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN
TROOPS, WILL A CABINET MEETING BE CALLED, OR WHAT OTHER
ACTION WILL BE TAKEN?

KHUKRIT: WAIT FIRST. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO ANSWER
ANYTHING: WAIT AND SEE THE SITUATION FIRST.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT IT SHOULD BE TOMORROW?
I MEAN OUR DEADLINE TO WAIT.

KHUKRIT: IN THAT PROTEST, THERE IS A DEMAND THAT THE
UNITED STATES WITHDRAW THESE TROOPS AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE,
FIXING NO DEFINITE TIME. AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE. I
AM AT LEAST WAITING TO SEE TILL TOMMOROW WHAT THE
SITUATION WILL BE. AT ONCE, NOT AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE.
IMMEDIATELY. U USED THE ENGLISH WORDS "IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL,
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FOR THE TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN AT ONCE.

REPORTER: IN YOUR HEART, YOU HAVE FIXED TOMORROW AS
THE DEADLINE. HAVEN'T YOU?

KHUKRIT: I HAVE SAID ALREADY THAT WE WILL WAIT AND
SEE UNTIL TOMORROW.

REPORTER: SIR....

KHUKRIT: I ASKED HIM. HE SAID HE KNEW NOTHING AT
ALL. HE HAD HEARD REPORTS AND FACTS AS I HAD HEARD,

REPORTER: HAD YOU RECEIVED A REPORT BEFORE THAT THE
SUPREME COMMAND (FORWARD) HAD CLEARED AIR SPACE FOR THEM?

KHUKRIT: I HADN'T HEARD OF THAT.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT INVESTIGATIONS OUGHT TO
BE HELD:

KHUKRIT: QUESTIONS MUST BE PUT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
RULES AND REGULATIONS TO ASCERTAIN HOW THEY ENTERED OUR
COUNTRY. QUESTIONS ARE BEING PUT.

REPORTER: I HAVE ASKED YOU THIS, BECAUSE SHOULD AN
ENEMY ENTER OUR COUNTRY. AND SHOULD YOU BE IN IGNORANCE
OF THE FACTS IT IS A MATTER CAUSING GREAT WORRY.

KHUKRIT: IT IS A FACT THAT I KNEW OF THE MATTER BEFORE
THEY ARRIVED HERE. I KNEW OF IT LATE LAST NIGHT. I RECEIVED
REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS OF ALL UNITS CONCERNED, INCLUDING
THE MILITARY AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ALSO. THIS
MEANS THE MILITARY.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THIS ACTION OF THE UNITED
STATES CONSTITUTES VIOLATION OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY?

KHUKRIT: OF COURSE IT DOES, OTHERWISE WHY WOULD IT
BE NECESSARY TO MAKE A PROTEST, BECAUSE WE HAD MADE A
REQUEST AS FRIENDS NOT TO MAKE US BECOME INVOLVED ALSO.
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ANY AND ALL TROOPS SENT HERE TO BE STATIONED IN VARIOUS
BASES CAN COME ONLY WITH OUR APPROVAL. I AM THE HEAD
OF THE GOVERNMENT.
I DISAPPROVE. I DON'T HAVE
TO GO AND ASK ANY OTHER PERSON.

REPORTER:

KHUKRIT: BUT WE HAVE SAID ALREADY IN OUR PROTEST,

FOR THE TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN AT ONCE IMMEDIATELY. IF OUR REQUEST IS NOT CARRIED OUT, IT WOULD HAVE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE ON RELATIONS.

REPORTER: ...

KHUKRIT: WHAT KIND OF MEETING?

REPORTER:.....

KHUKRIT: WHY SHOULD A MEETING BE HELD? WE HAVE MADE A PROTEST ALREADY. WE FELT THAT THE SITUATION SEEMED UNSATISFACTORY. WE SENT FOR THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND TOLD HIM AS FRIENDS. HE PROMISED THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKE, WHEN THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, WHO IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THAILAND CAME AND MADE THAT PROMISE TO ME, WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE GOVENMENT IT MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A COMMITMENT. AFTER MAKING THAT PROMISE AND ACTION IS STILL TAKEN. I HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO MAKE A PROTEST. AND WHEN A PROTEST IS MADE A DEMAND MUST BE MADE FOR TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY. IF THEY ARE NOT WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY. THEN IT WILL BE KNOWN TOMMOROW MORING, THERE WILL BE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES TO FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND CONSIDERATION MUST BE PAID AS TO WHAT FURTHER ACTION TO TAKE,

REPORTER: IF THE UNITED STATES WITHDRAWS THESE TROOPS FROM U TAPAO BUT DOES NOT SEND THEM BACK TO AMERICA IF IT WITHDRAWSTHEM TO INVADE CAMBODIA, WOULD IT MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD USED TERRITORY IN THAILAND TO INVADE IT? (CAMBODIA)

KHUKRIT: NO. WE HAVE MADE A PROTEST AND FORBIDDEN
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THEM ALREADY. I CONSIDER THAT WE ARE NOT CONCERNED OR INVOLVED.

REPORTER: DOES YOUR PROTEST MAKE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES REALIZE THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY...

KHUKRIT: NO. IT PROVES OUR SINCERITY. IT ISN'T TO SHOW OFF TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. WHEN I DON'T LIKE ANYTHING, WHEN I DON'T WANT ANYTHING, I MAKE A PROTEST. WE HAVE MADE AND SHOWN OUR STAND. WHERE THE TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN TO I DON'T KNOW. BUT THAILAND MUST NOT BE CONCERNED OR INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. I HAVE SAID THAT ALREADY. I SAID IT YESTERDAY.

REPORTER: IS THIS THAI ATTITUDE SHOWN TO AMERICA OUR MAIN POLICY IN THE FUTURE?

KHUKRIT: DEFINITELY.

REPORTER: WILL A CABINET MEEING BE CALLED?

KHUKRIT: I HAVE NO SUCH PLAN YET.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THE NEW AMEBASSADOR--
AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE WHO WILL ARRIVE HERE TODAY...

KHUKRIT: IT SEEMS HE WILL ARRIVE AFTER THE PROTEST
HAS BEEN PRESENTED... AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE.

OFFICIAL: AT 5:15 P.M. SIR.

KHUKRIT: AFTER. I PRESENTED THE PROTEST AT 3/45 P.M.
ON ARRIVAL HE IS FACED WITH A PROTEST.

REPORTER: IT IS REPORTED THAT A PROTEST HAS BEEN
STAGED AT DON MUANG ALSO.

KHUKRIT: HOW IS THE PROTEST STAGED?

REPORTER: STUDENTS HAVE GONE THERE.

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KHUKRIT: GOOD THIS IS ALL

THAN YOU VERY MUCH.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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